

Chairmen Formica, Osten and Walker, and members of the Appropriations Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding the budget. My name is David Bingham. I have devoted my life to promoting good health, including the care of our community and our State. I write because of my concern about our environment, which is so essential for our physical health and for our economic health.

The Governor's proposals to cut the CEQ entirely and the DEEP further are extremely "penny wise and pound foolish." The savings are minuscule both in the short and in the long run, while the long run costs and risks are huge if CEQ is silenced and DEEP is weakened further.

CEQ has promoted wise environmental policies and shone the light of day on what is happening to the environment, and why. Who else keeps track of all of our monitoring systems, keeping an eye on our air and water quality, the health of Long Island Sound, land use policy, energy conservation, and who reports to citizens and legislators on a yearly basis to provide early warnings and guidance on the state of our environment??? Only the CEQ.

And adequate DEEP staffing is essential for timely reviews, adequate planning, and effective programs to deal with environmental issues like air and water quality, toxic wastes, climate change and energy conservation.

Please save the CEQ and its dedicated bare-bones staff. It is a tiny agency that does remarkable work, providing the information needed for wise State policies necessary for the health of our economy and our citizens. **And please halt the cuts** that are already too deep **to the DEEP**.

As in medical care, **prevention is always cheaper than treatment**, clean-up and restoration. The threats to the environment and the concerns about current problems that need attention are real and ever-present. They require prompt and proper attention, which will be impossible with CEQ gone and DEEP increasingly unable to keep up with its responsibilities.

Every citizen benefits from these agencies. Cutting them will hurt us all!

David B. Bingham MD Salem, CT,

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Co-Chair of the CT League of Conservation Voters;
Steering Committee member of the CT Land Conservation Coalition;
Board member of Audubon CT, the Eightmile River Wild and Scenic
Coordinating Committee, and the Salem Land Trust